

Arab Republic of Egypt  
Ministry of Awqaf  
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### *Al-Israa wa Al-Mi'raj* and the Obligation of Prayer

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Keep up the prayer, pay Zakah, and bow down in prayer with all who bow down.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

The journey of *Al-Israa wa Al-Mi'raj* was full of Divine grants and gifts from the Almighty Allah, that were given only for this nation. One of the greatest grants given on that journey was the obligation of prayer that represents a connection between man and Allah. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Fifty prayers were enjoined on me in every day and a night. Then I descended till I met Moses, and then Moses said, ‘What did your Lord enjoin upon your nation?’ I said, ‘fifty prayers.’ Moses said, ‘Go back so that your Lord may reduce it for you and for them because they will not bear that.’ I said, “O Lord, please lighten our burden as my followers cannot do that.” The Prophet continued asking his Lord for reducing the number of Prayers until Allah said to him, “They are five (prayers) per day

and night, and each Prayer equals ten (in reward), and thus, they are fifty Prayers.”

The obligation of Prayer on the night of *al-Mi'raj* in the Heavens is an indication of the Prayer's value and position. Prayer is the comfort of souls, the life of hearts, and the delight of spirits. It is a spiritual ascension during which people ascend to their Lord, the Lord of the worlds. Allah said, **“Prostrate in worship and draw close [to Allah].”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The closest that the slave comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “You should prostrate much (i.e. Perform many Prayers), for every prostration that you perform before Allah will raise your position one degree and will remit one of your sins.”

Also, the obligation of Prayer during *al-Mi'raj* journey was a form of comfort for our Prophet (PBUH) after the severe ordeals he experienced in that year that was called the Year of Grief. This is a sign that prayer is a reason for resting the heart. Allah said, **“We are well aware that your heart is weighed down by what they say. Celebrate the glory of your Lord and be among those who bow down to Him. And worship your Lord until what is certain comes to you.”** Allah also said, **“Seek help with steadfastness and prayer.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “My comfort is provided in prayer.” The Prophet (PBUH) used to tell Bilal, “O Bilal, call *iqamah* for prayer: give us comfort by it.”

The reduction of Prayer from Fifty Prayers to only five indicates Allah's infinite mercy for His Servants and an indication of the easiness in the Islamic Shari'ah that calls for removing of hardships. Allah, the Most High, said, "**Allah does not burden any soul with more than it can bear.**" Allah also said, "**Allah wants ease for you, not hardship.**" Also, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The religion (of Islam) is easy," and said, "Allah did not send me to be harsh, or cause harm, but He has sent me to teach and make things easy."

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All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

It goes without saying that Prayer is a communication between man and his Creator (Glory be to Him) as the Prophet (PBUH) once said, "Allah the Exalted had said: I have divided the prayer into two halves between Me and My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks. When the servant says: "Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the universe," Allah, the Most High, says: "My servant has praised Me." And when he (the servant) says: "the Most Compassionate, the Merciful," Allah, the Most High, says: "My servant has lauded Me." And when he (the servant) says: "Master of the Day of judgment," He remarks: "My servant has glorified Me." And when

he (the worshipper) says: "You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help," Allah says: "This is between Me and My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks for." Then, when he (the worshipper) says: "Guide us in the straight Path, the Path of those whom You have blessed, not of those with whom You are angry, nor those who have gone astray," He (Allah) says: "This is for My servant, and My servant will receive what he asks for."

In addition, Prayer has a wonderful effect on purifying one's soul, correcting one's conduct, and teaching good manners, as the Almighty Allah says, "keep up the prayer: prayer restrains outrageous and unacceptable behaviour." A person who performs prayer shall not practice lie, cheat, betray, or break his promises. Rather, he should be an embodiment of ethics moving on the ground according to the commands of Allah.

Our Lord, make us and those of our descendants keep up prayer. Our Lord, accept our invocations!